

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENDINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION BERLIN

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USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, UR

SUBJECT: ROMANIA AIRS INDEPENDENT VIEWS IN VE DAY

COMMEMORATION: ROUNDUP

1. SUMMARY: CEAUSESCU'S MAY 9 "VICTORY DAY" SPEECH
SUMMARIZED GOR'S INDEPENDENT SLANT TOWARD VE DAY ANNIVERSARY
WHICH HAS BEEN PLAYED UP HARD IN TORRENT OF ROMANIAN MEDIA
COVERAGE DURING PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. AESOPIAN CRITICISM OF
SOVIETS WAS BALANCED BY OUTWARD PRAISE. END SUMMARY.

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2. WHILE CAREFULLY PAYING EXTENSIVE HOMAGE TO USSR'S WARTIME

ROLE, CEAUSESCU GAVE AT LEAST EQUAL WEIGHT TO ALLIES AND RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS. HE PORTRAYED WWII NOT RPT NOT AS EUROPEAN VENT ENTIRELY DOMINATED BY SOVIETS BUT FAIRLY OBJECTIVELY AS GOLOBAL CONFLAGRATION IN WHICH "GIANT WORLD COALITION" BROUGHT AXIS DEFEAT. SPECIALLY CREDITED WERE NOT ONLY GREAT BRITAIN (BY NOTING UK WAS ALONE IN WAR FOR A YEAR, CEAUSESCU INDIRECTLY RECALLED SOVIET-NAZI PACT ERA). U.S. (FOR ITS PACIFIC WAR, MILITARY AID, AND NORMANDY LANDING), AND YUGOSLAV AND FRENCH RESISTANCE, BUT ALSO "GREAT CHINESE PEOPLE", "VIETNAMESE AND OTHER ASIAN PEOPLE", AND "DOZENS OF OTHER PEOPLES".

3. CEAUSESCU GAVE HEAVY EMPHASIS (AS HAS MEDIA) TO ROMANIA'S POST-AUGUST 1944 CONTRIBUTION ON ALLIED SIDE, ALONGSIDE RED ARMY, NOT ONLY IN HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA BUT ALSO IN AUSTRIA (SOME ROMANIAN UNITS HE SAID GOT AS FAR AS VIENNA). (GOR LINE HAS BEEN THAT ROMANIAN ARMY AND RCP NOT ONLY FREED BUCHAREST BUT MOST OF COUNTRY BEFORE SOVIETS ARRIVED TO HELP.) INDIRECTLY HITTING AT CURRENT SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO GIVE ROMANIA ANY WW TWO CREDIT AT ALL, HE QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM STALIN, MOLOTOV, AND VISHINSKY IN PRAISE OF ROMANIA'S ROLE, RECALLED THAT A UK LABORITE HAD ARGUED FOR ROMANIAN COBELLIGERENT STATUS AT PEACE TABLE (WHEN ACCORDING TO CONVENTIONAL WISDOM HERE WAS BLOCKED BY SOVIETS), AND NOTED KEY STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE ROMANIA'S DEFECTION FROM AXIS SIDE HAD IN BALKANS. (HISTORIAN C. GIURESCU CLAIMED (CONTEMPORANUL, APRIL 25) THAT HIS SHORTENED WAR CY SIX MONTHS.)

4. CEAUSESCU CONTINUED TO BEAT DRUMS IN FAVOR OF HISTORICAL ACCURACY (IMPLYING SOVIET DISTORTIONS) INSISTING THAT "REALITIES BE PUT WITH ALL CLARITY" AND "CONTRIBUTION OF PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND ROMANIAN PEOPLE TO WW TWO VICTORY" BE REPRESENTED WITH "ALL SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVITY". HOWEVER, HE IMPLIED THAT OBJECTIVITY CAN GO TOO FAR (THE RECENT NOVEL "DELIRIUL" BY MARIN PRED A REHABILITATED TO A DEGREE THE WARTIME DICTATOR ANTONESCU): THOSE WHO "STAINED ROMANIA'S HONOR" (E.G. IRON GUARD, ANTONESCU) WOULD "NEVER BE FORGIVEN".

5. A MAIN CEASUSECU CONCERN WAS TO DRAW "LESSONS" FROM HISTORY OF WW TWO. VICTORY ILLUSTRATED "ANY ENEMY" CAN BE BEATEN IF PEOPLES ARE RESOLVED TO DEFEND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND

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SOVEREIGNTY (MORE APPLICABLE TODAY TO GOR'S POSITION VIS A VIS SOVIETS); WW TWO WAS RESULT OF "IMPERIALIST POLICY OF DOMINATION AND REPRESSION OF OTHER PEOPLES" AND "SPHERES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, LEADING TO INVASIONS OF SMALL COUNTRIES" (ANOTHER POSSIBLE AESOPIAN JAB TOWARD MOSCOW). CEAUSESCU LUMPED THE MUNICH AND MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP PACTS TOGETHER AS "ENCOURAGING THE INVASION AND DOMINATION OF OTHER PEOPLES" AND AMOUNTING TO A "POLICY OF CONCESSIONS, BYOPIA AND TREASON BY CERTAIN

LEADING CIRCLES." (PRIVATE LECTURE ON APRIL 21 BY GHEORGHE ZAHARIA, PARTY HISTORY INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMBINED HARSH WORDS FOR BOTH ANGLO-FRENCY APPEASEMENT AND SECRET SOVIET DEAL WITH NAZIS TO SEIZE BESSARABIA AND SET UP SPHERES OF INFLUENCE, WHICH FACT HE IMPLIED ULTIMATELY THREW ROMANIA INTO ARMS OF AXIS AND LED TO DICTAT OF VIENNA. THIS POINT WAS IMPLICIT ALSO IN SCINTEIA EDITORIAL (CAPLESCU) APRIL 30.)

6. CEAUSESCU'S MENTION OF PRESENT-DAY ROMANIAN MILITARY COLLABORATION NOT ONLY WITH WARSAW PACT AND "ALL SOCIALIST" STATES BUT ALSO WITH "OTHER FRIENDLY STATES" WAS PRECEDED BY EARLIER APRIL 27 SCINTEIA EDITORIAL (FINTINARU) AND MAY 1 SPEECH BY RCP POLEXCO MEMBER AND IASI FIRST SECRETARY (ILIESCU) TO EFFECT THAT WW TWO SHOWED COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND IDEOLOGICAL SYSTEMS CAN COOPERATE FRUITFULLY EVEN IN MILITARY SPHERE (SIMILAR TO GRECHKO'S RECENT STATEMENT BUT IN THIS CASE KEYED TO GOR'S DISTANCING ITSELF FROM WARSAW PACT).

7. VE DAY PROTOCOL FRONT WAS STANDOFF BETWEEN GOR AND WARSAW PACT BRETHERN. SOVIET AND CZECH RECEPTION INVITATIONS, SLIGHTING WARTIME ROLE OF OTHERS, APPARENTLY WERE AS INSULTING TO GOR AS TO US; ROMANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF COMAN AND ANOTHER GENERAL BOTH EXPRESSED TO DAO THEIR SATISFACTION THAT NATO AMBASSADORS STAYED AWAY (SEE DAO IR 883 0062 75). CEAUSESCU GOT UNDESIRABLY TITLED MEDALS FROM CZECHS AND SOVIETS COMMEMORATING "CZECH-SLOVAK INSURRECTIONS AND LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY SOVIET ARMY" AND "DEFENSE OF (SOVIET) FATHERLAND", BUT RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS MANAGED NEVERTHELESS TO LAUD ROMANIA'S MILITARY CONTRIBUTION, AND SOV AMB GAVE A RATHER BALANCED VIEW OF THE "ANTI-HITLERITE COLAITION". CEAUSESCU-MANESCU 30TH ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIPS SHUNNED ROMANIAN CONTRIBUTION ISSUE

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ALTOGETHER. SOVIET AND BRITISH CEMETERY WREATHLAYING GOT EQUIVALENT GOR MEDIA ATTENTION. DEFMIN IONITA SENT 30TH ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO DEFMIN OF USSR, US, U.K. AND FRANCE. SOVIETS DELEGATE TO CELEBRATION, COL-GEN G.I. ABATUROV, DID NOT PLAY PARTICULARLY CONSPICUOUS ROLE.

8. ALTHOUGH CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH CONCENTRATED ON VE-DAY, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF SOVIET SENSITILITIES, DOUBLE CHARACTER OF ANNIVERSARY FOR GOR WAS MADE PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN MEDIA AT MAY 5-6 "SESSION" OF HISTORIANS AND MILITARY ON "STRUGGLE OF ROMANIAN PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE (1877) AND CONTRIBUTION OF ROMANIA TO VICTORY OVER FACISM (1945)", AT WHICH BLOC HISTORIANS AND DIPCORPS DEF ATTACHES WERE TREATED TO LECTURES ON ROMANIAN HISTORICAL SOVEREIGNTY. GOR APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO INDUCE BALANCING

ATTENDANCE AT SESSION BY WESTERN EUROPEANS BUT WITH LITTLE
SUCCESS.
VIETS

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